



The THOREAU SOCIETY BULLETIN

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On Thoreau's Delivery of "Cape Cod" in Clinton

[Editor's Note: We have long known that Thoreau delivered a lecture on "Cape Cod" before the Bigelow Mechanics' Institute in Clinton, Massachusetts, on Wednesday evening, 1 January 1851. We have also known that Franklin Forbes, Chairman of the Institute's Committee on Lectures, wrote to Thoreau on 14 November 1850 inviting him to deliver "Cape Cod" in Clinton and that Thoreau wrote the next day accepting the invitation (see *Correspondence*, 267-68). But we have known little else about the lecture, its context, or how it was received. The following extracts from the Clinton *Saturday Courant* will help fill in the picture.]

[*Saturday Courant*, 9 November 1850, 2:]
BIGELOW MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—The course of Lectures before the Bigelow Mechanics' Institute the coming Winter, promises to be of a most interesting and popular character. By the notices issued in our advertising columns, it will be seen that RALPH WALDO EMERSON is to give the first Lecture, on Wednesday evening next, at Clinton Hall, and that Horace Greeley, Esq., Prof. E. S. Snell, Rev. Barnas Sears, E. P. Whipple, Esq., Rev. Wm. Ware, Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, and others, are announced as already or partly engaged, to follow. The announcement of such an array of talent cannot fail to make these Lectures even more popular than those of the last Winter, and the Committee who have charge of this department of the affairs of the Institute deserve high commendation for the course they have thus marked out for the pleasure and profit of the public. Clinton Hall will hold a large number of persons, but we are greatly mistaken if it be found any too large for the accommodation of all those who will desire to attend. An early application for tickets for the whole course is the best and only surety of hearing any of them. For particulars see advertisement.

[*Saturday Courant*, 9 November 1850, 3:]

Bigelow Mechanics' Institute.

TWELVE LECTURES on Miscellaneous Subjects, and of a general interest will be delivered in CLINTON HALL on Wednesday evenings of the months of November, December, January and February. The first will be given

On November 13th, by

Rev. RALPH WALDO EMERSON.

Arrangements are made, or making, with HORACE GREELEY, Esq., Prof. E. S. SNELL, Rev. BARNAS SEARS, E. P. WHIPPLE, Esq., Rev. WM. WARE, Rev. HENRY WARD BEECHER, WM. A. DREW, Esq., and Hon L. V. BELL.

Tickets to the whole, \$1.00 for a gentleman, and 75 cents for a lady. Admission to a single lecture, 12½ cts. Tickets can be obtained of Ballard & Messinger, J. W. Caldwell, and at the Counting Rooms of the Quilt Co., Clinton Co., and the Lancaster Mills.

FRANKLIN FORBES, *Committee*
C. N. BLANCHARD, *on*
A. J. SAWYER, *Lectures.*

Clinton, Nov. 9, 1850.

[*Saturday Courant*, 16 November 1850, 2:]

B. M. INSTITUTE LECTURES.—Last Wednesday evening, Rev. RALPH WALDO EMERSON gave a lecture on Wealth, before the B.M. Institute—the first of a series of twelve which are to be delivered during the present season by different distinguished gentlemen. Like all Mr. Emerson's efforts this was mainly indebted for its interest to his peculiar mode of grouping thoughts and images illustrative of his subject,—another "chip" from the block at which he has so long been hacking to prove himself a Solon in wisdom and a Cruikshank in art.

These qualities, which he possesses in an eminent degree, are not a little marred by the halting, and shuffling, and stumbling manner in which he presents them to his audience. Were it otherwise,—had he the pleasing manner and port of the accomplished orator, no man would be found in our land with greater ability to please and fascinate his hearers, even though he should confine himself to the philosophic truisms of

Benj. Franklin, with which an American audience cannot fail to be familiar.

Next Tuesday evening we are to have a lecture from HORACE GREELEY, Esq., editor of the New York Tribune,—another “man of note,” but of quite a different stamp. Mr. Greeley is a man of the people—a hard and efficient worker in the fields and amongst the hedges and ditches neglected or used for convenience, by the old style statesmen and orators of past and present times. His name needs but to be announced for a lecture to insure a crowd of listeners, and we need not add that something is sure to fall from his lips worth the attention and time of the listener.

[Editor's Note: Since Emerson lectured in Clinton on 13 November 1850 and Forbes wrote to Thoreau the next day, we can assume that Forbes invited Thoreau to deliver “Cape Cod” after talking with Emerson, who had heard Thoreau deliver “Cape Cod” before the Concord Lyceum on 23 and 30 January 1850. In early February 1850, Emerson had told the Lyceum Committee in South Danvers that the “Concord people laughed till they cried” when they heard Thoreau deliver “Cape Cod” (*Correspondence*, 255). No doubt Emerson had given Forbes a similar report about the lecture.]

[*Saturday Courant*, 23 November 1850, 2:]

The lecture before the B.M. Institute last Tuesday evening, by Hon. HORACE GREELEY, was well worth the attention of his audience, and was so acknowledged by an undiminished [*sic*] interest evinced from beginning to end,—the whole time occupied by the speaker being but little short of two hours. His lecture was upon *Self Culture*,—a theme which has received the attention and deep thought of many of the popular lecturers of the day, but we doubt if the subject has ever been handled with a sterner purpose to reveal the truth, or with greater success in making its various phases appear interesting. Had he not prefaced his lecture with an exposition of his Socialist opinions, occupying some forty minutes of the two hours he consumed in the lecture and preface combined, our recollection of the performance would not have been marred by the fact that one of his illustrations, proving the power of thought—the exercise of the *thinking* faculties, rather than the mere acquisition of other men's thoughts,—to be what makes men great, end [*sic*] enables them to wield an influence over their fellows,—we repeat, had he not presented his Socialist ideas, proving the best interests of men to be in the consolidation, or grouping together of large

masses, thereby enabling all to partake of the bounties which nature and art can produce, his anecdote of isolated effort in the pursuit and triumphant acquisition of knowledge—one of the most ennobling pursuits,—would have been remembered without bringing to mind the shattered fabric which he first presented, and it destroyed. He averred that Banks, Incorporated Companies of every kind, Colleges and Common Schools, were all advances from a state of savage barbarity along the road leading to complete Socialism; and yet he commended the course pursued by one who left the haunts of men, scorned the advantages of schools and colleges, and with a few books took up his residence in the wilderness and there pursued the work of education, and with success.

[Editor's Note: For an extract of Greeley's “Self Culture” lecture, an extract which contains the passages about Thoreau's experiment at Walden Pond, see *The Rose of Sharon: A Religious Souvenir, for MDCCCCLVII*, ed. Mrs. Caroline M. Sawyer (Boston, 1857), 65-73; rpt. in *Critical Essays on Henry David Thoreau's Walden*, ed. Joel Myerson (Boston, 1988), 47-50.]

[*Saturday Courant*, 21 December 1850, 2:]

INSTITUTE LECTURES.—Prof. SNELL's Lecture on Architecture last Wednesday evening, was not so well attended as it should have been. A better knowledge of the most prominent edifices which now adorn England and the Continent could not be obtained without a personal visit, and the time will not, probably, soon recur when a like amount of instruction and pleasure can be so cheaply obtained.

The next Lecture will take place one week from next Wednesday, and be given by Mr. THOREAUX [*sic*], the type of Mr. Greeley's isolated education.

[*Saturday Courant*, 4 January 1851, 2:]

INSTITUTE LECTURES.—The lecture on Wednesday evening last by Mr. THOREAU, was one of those intellectual efforts which serve to wile away an hour very pleasantly, but which leave little or nothing impressed upon the memory of real value. The subject was “Cape Cod.” A description of a walk upon the sea shore, with reflections upon shipwrecks and their effects upon the inhabitants in a certain case, with anecdotes, and a few historical reminiscences, made up the burthen of his story.

The next lecture will be given by THOMAS DREW, Esq., assistant editor of the *Spy*. Subject, the “*Influence of the Mechanic Arts upon Civilization*.”

[*Saturday Courant*, 11 January 1851, 2:]
 INSTITUTE LECTURES.—The lecture before the B. M. Institute last Wednesday evening, by Thomas Drew, Esq., is considered by many as about the best lecture of the course thus far delivered,—totally obscuring the fine-spun theories of Emerson and placing “Cape Cod” amongst those “trifles, light as air,” which serve to amuse, but not instruct, the listener. . . .

“No pages in my Journal
 are so suggestive as those
 which contain a rude sketch.”

— 26 April 1857



3 April 1858

Additions to the Thoreau Bibliography

Walter Harding

- Baida, Peter. “Thoreau’s Success Book” in *Poor Richard’s Legacy: American Business Values from Benjamin Franklin to Donald Trump*. New York: Morrow, 1990. 92-98. OnWalden.
- Beam, Alex. “Regarding Henry.” *Boston Globe*. 8 August 1991. A diatribe against Thoreau.
- Boudreau, Gordon. *The Roots of Walden*. Review. *American Literature*. June 1991.
- Dempsey, James. “Dialing for a Higher Calling and Beaming in on Thoreau.” *Worcester Telegram Gazette*. 28 August 1991. Reply to Beam, above.
- Emerson, Ralph Waldo. *The Letters of*. Edited by Eleanor M. Tilton. Vol. 7: 1807-1844. New York: Columbia University Press. 1990. 623 pp. One of the great monuments of American literary scholarship is Ralph Rusk’s 1939 six-volume edition of Emerson’s letters, edited impeccably and with superb annotations. It is a central reference book for all students of the period. Now Tilton has brought out the first of a series of supplementary volumes. If anything, it is even more carefully edited than Rusk. Between the new texts and the annotations, a wealth of new information is brought to light. Most important are the many new letters to Mary Moody Emerson and Caroline Sturgis. Although there are no new letters in the Thoreau-Emerson correspondence, there are many corrections and re-datings of the known letters. No Thoreau student should be without this volume. The long introduction has much to say about the period. It incidentally gives a new version of the beginning of their friendship: that Emerson gave Thoreau a series ticket to his 1837-8 Boston lectures, and then when he learned Thoreau was walking the 34 miles to Boston and back to hear them, invited him to hear them at Emerson’s home instead. The lack of an index to this volume is a serious handicap, but we assume this will be remedied with a general index at the end of the series.
- Feigenbaum, Enid. “All Wet at Walden: A Villanelle.” *The Voice of Walden* 32 (Summer 1991): 3.
- Garber, Frederick. *Thoreau’s Fable of Inscribing*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1991. 226 pp. \$35. Garber’s new Thoreau volume is devoted to exploring what he believes to be one of Thoreau’s major themes: how one gets to be at home in the world. It is a difficult book. Indeed, Garber himself asks if “our language is not an adequate instrument to ask what we want to know.” At times we think he tends to find more in Thoreau’s prose than Thoreau himself intended (though that may well be due to our own insufficiency). On the other hand, he often gives us new insights into Thoreau’s thought, such as his relationships with Therien, Rice, and John Field. Not an easy book, but one that can stimulate new thought on Thoreau.
- Gunn, Janet Varner. “Walden and the Temporal Mode of Autobiographical Narrative.” In Albert Stone, ed., *American Autobiography*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall. 1981. 80-94.
- Harding, Walter. “Thoreau’s Sexuality.” *Journal of Homosexuality* 21 (1991): 23-45. While there is a pronounced vein of homoeroticism in Thoreau’s outlook, no evidence has been found of any active homosexuality on his part. (So long as the supply lasts, I will be happy to send a copy of this article to anyone who sends me a self-addressed, stamped [\$0.52] envelope. See address below.)

Henley, Don and Dave Marsh, eds. *Heaven Is Under Our Feet*. Stamford, CT: Longmeadow Press, 1991. 292 pp. \$18.95. For those of you who care about conservation in general and Walden Pond in particular, this is the book for you. Don Henley, the recording artist, came to the rescue when he learned Walden Woods was being endangered by real-estate developers and formed the Walden Woods Project to raise funds. He and Marsh have persuaded sixty or so famed people, ranging from President Carter, Edward Kennedy, E. L. Doctorow, Jesse Jackson, Bette Midler, James Michener, Gregory Peck, Meryl Streep, Arlo Guthrie, Whoopi Goldberg, Cesar Chavez, Kurt Vonnegut, to Wallace Stegner each to write a short essay on the rape of Walden Woods. And what a great book it makes! It is one of those books you will want to keep by your bedside and dip into each night. Read them all, but be sure not to miss the ones by Henley himself, Kennedy, Redford, Jackson, and Ed Schofield's lead-off essay, which sets the tone of the whole book. All profits from the book go to the Walden Woods Project.

----- The Same. Review. *Concord Journal*. 5 September 1991.

Holcomb, Blithe C. "When Home Is a Historic Town." *Christian Science Monitor*. 3 July 1991. Thoreau's impact on a Concordian.

Johnson, William C., Jr. *What Thoreau Said: Walden and the Unsayable*. Moscow: U of Idaho Press, 1991. 172 pp. An analysis of *Walden* in the light of the critical theories of Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Owen Barfield, and with comparisons to the works of Franklin and Kierkegaard. I find therein a good discussion of Thoreau's use of the first-person technique. An analysis of the "triadic" structure of *Walden* I find unconvincing. Too much of his argument depends upon puns that I am not at all certain Thoreau ever intended, even though he was an inveterate punster. To use Johnson's own words (quite unfairly, perhaps), I find myself "getting lost in the at times abstruse concerns of criticism." And I am astonished that after going into deep analysis of the rest of the book, Johnson completely ignores the "Conclusion"—to my mind, one of the most significant chapters.

Kihara, Buicho. "Henry David Thoreau: Living His Own Way." In *Lives of Great Men: Second Series*. Tokyo: Shincho-sha, 1991. 9-30. Text in Japanese.

Negri, Gloria. "Leading a Life of Quiet Emulation." *Boston Globe*. 21 May 1991.

On Thomas Blanding's interest in Thoreau. Neufeldt, Leonard. *The Economist*. Reviews: *Journal of English and Germanic Philology*, January 1991; *Modern Philology*, May 1991.

Palches, Lois. "The Impact Made by Henry Thoreau." *Concord Journal*. 20 June 1991.

Peck, Daniel. *Thoreau's Morning Work*. Review: *New England Quarterly*, June 1991.

Sattelmeyer, Robert. *Thoreau's Reading*. Review: *Journal of American Studies*, April 1990.

Sherwood, Mary P. "Setting the Record Straight about Hiking at Walden." *Concord Journal*. 4 July 1991.

Struthers, Anne. "Alcott's Axe." *Hudson Review* 43 (Spring 1990): 66. Poem.

Thoreau, Henry D. *Walden*. Trans. into Czech by Zdenek Franta. Prague: Laichter, 1902.

----- The Same. Trans. into Czech by Milos Seifert. Prague: B. Z. Nekovarik, 1924.

----- The Same. Trans. into Czech by Milos Seifert. Prague and Bratislava: J. Otto, 1933.

----- The Same. Trans. into Czech by Zdenek Franta. Prague: J. Laichter, 1949.

----- The Same. Trans. into Czech by Josef Schwarz. Prague: Odeon, 1991. We are indebted to Frantisek Kozisek for this list of the Czech translations of *Walden*.

Usher, Jim. "Students Camp to Beat of Different Drummer." *Arab [Alabama] Tribune*. 29 May 1991. High-school students from Alabama make a pilgrimage to Walden Pond.

Walden Woods Project. *Walden Woods: Cradle of American Conservation*. Boston 1991. A large, detailed map of the Walden Woods area.

Zaroulis, Nancy. *Massachusetts: A Novel*. New York: Fawcett Columbine, 1991. 709 pp. \$19.95. A blockbusting, multi-generational novel tracing a Massachusetts family from the Mayflower to today. One of its central characters visits Thoreau both at Walden and in jail. The novel ends in a present-day rally to save the Walden Woods. Many of the Walden sections paraphrase Thoreau's own writings. Much of the book's plot centers around the conflicts between the Irish and Boston bluebloods. A real gripper of a novel.

I am indebted to the following for information sent in for this bibliography: L. Beaulieu, J. Burger, W. Bottorff, R. Galvin, R. Hamilton, E. Johnson, K. Kasegawa, D. Ledbetter, W. Mott, M. Mould, W. Olsen, R. Poland, E. Schofield, E. Smith, C. Tweedy, F. Yoos, and A. Zwinger. Please keep me informed of items I have missed and new ones as they appear. Walter Harding, 19 Oak Street, Geneseo, NY 14454.

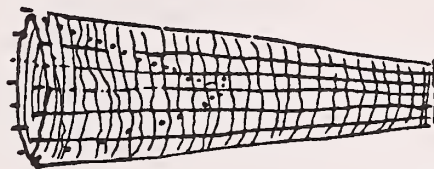
A Reminiscence of Emerson and Thoreau

Steven R. Shelburne

[Editor's Note: The following paragraph appears in a holograph letter written about 1883 by David Edwards Tenney, who was at the time an inmate of the Massachusetts State Prison in Cambridge. The letter, written to George Hayward of Concord, Massachusetts, was originally ten pages long (five leaves of very closely written pencil text), but the first leaf is missing. Shelburne's mother purchased the four leaves as part of a lot at an antique-furniture auction in early 1989. She gave the leaves to him, and he in turn placed them on loan in the Concord Free Public Library. Your editor is solely responsible for the transcript.]

My reference to Emerson recalls personal reminiscences of him when I lived in Concord. No face whom I looked upon in my youth, outside of my own family, is so photographed, so to speak, on my mind as is the expressive philosophic face of America's greatest thinker. His countenance always beamed with what I should call a sedate smile: There was benevolence, and an indescribable something in that smile which was peculiar to him alone. He was the gentlest and most amiable of men, such as none but a true philosopher could be. My good mother used to assist Mrs Emerson in her sewing and she saw much of Mr Emerson and entertained profound reverence for his character, regardless of his transcendentalism, or any other *ism*; She, good soul, believed Mr Emerson was a perfect Christian in his character, and I think my Mother was right in her appreciation of him; He was indeed a Christian, but without a "creed." He has been *indiscriminately* criticized by "professing" Christians since his death, but he was one of the purest and noblest products of our civilization, *amicus humani generis*: "For modes of faith, let graceless bigots fight, his can't be wrong, whose life is in the right." You are right, Pope, and by this criterion Emerson was a Christian, though he may not have subscribed to any sectarian "dogmas" formulated by ecclesiastical synods. I regard him as one of my benefactors, for he gave my good Mother the privilege [*sic*] of selecting books from his library for me to read, and it was one of my constant habits to read these books aloud to my Mother as she sat at her work evenings. She it was who selected "pieces" for me to memorize for school declamation: Mr Emerson presented my Mother with all of Dr Channing's writings and of Henry

Ware's, and Mother never wearied in listening to their pure conception of Christ's character and teachings, which Channing & Ware exemplified in their lives—*par nobile fratrinis*. Once or twice a week I used to go, after school hours, to Mr Emerson's to split kindling wood for the Cook who used to complain to Mrs Emerson that "Henry wasn't worth his porridge to do the chores." The said "Henry" was that classic Genius, H.D.T.— who was tarrying for a season with the "Magnus Apollo" that he might, peradventure, imbibe somewhat of the Emersonian afflatus: He was popularly supposed, by the household, to be their "*fac totum*," but he shamefully neglected his duties, as that household tyrant [*sic*], the Cook declared! hence, I was called in to relieve the embryo philosopher of his onerous duties: this was before he went into *voluntary* exile, and set up housekeeping on his own hook, at Walden Pond, where no unphilosophic Cook could "molest" him or make him afraid of a Yankee girl's upbraiding tongue or broomstick: Thoreau always reminds me of the old Athenian cynic; I call him our Yankee Diogenes: I verily believe that Stephen A[.] Douglas got his famous *Squatter Sovereignty* idea from the Concord peripatetic philosopher! I think a Man who can ramble among the Sandhills of Cape Cod and write an interesting book thereon is a rare Genius: I feel grateful to this eccentric but kindly-hearted man for many little favors in my boyhood.



20 March 1858

I Discover Thoreau

Craig R. Kesler

I met Thoreau in the 60s, in the Midwest, thanks to my English teacher, Mrs. Gingrich. Frankly, until senior high, I'd never heard of the man. I read *Walden* and "Civil Disobedience," liking *Walden* while "Civil Disobedience" left me cold.

Sometime during that reading a small seed was planted; strong, hardy, and patient: In *Walden* were subtle pearls and a story for me. I read it, passed a quiz, and moved on, maybe to *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Iliad*, or *Romeo and Juliet*; it's hard to remember.

I had a remedial course at Colgate University,

greatly expanded to include most of Thoreau's major works. I passed another quiz, did well on the final, and again moved on. I was always in a hurry, with things to accomplish.

I located in Atlanta, eager, anxious, and ready to succeed. My "bean-field" became marketing and advertising. And for 15 years I tended the dollar and watched my harvests come in: a larger home, German car, Baker furniture, a Rolex, and another more exotic vacation. In time, I even came to own an island retreat off the coast of Exuma Bahamas. I was on a merry-go-round, a whirl-wind, in the fast lane—almost literally exhuming my own body before I had died. Six-day work weeks, 16-hour days, several offices, too many employees, a daughter who didn't really know me, a wife who no longer liked me, and one divorce later, my accomplishments just didn't seem to add up. I left Atlanta and relocated to Virginia to make some changes.

My new business was a fresh challenge in a new niche of marketing. I thought I had simplified my life. From my previous business environment in Atlanta with a large computer, trucks with my name prominently displayed on the side, and multi-million-dollar sales, I adjusted my work down to a "shop" with a small number of talented people, a PC, a handful of word processors, and a fax machine—all in all, just a smaller version of the prior problem, run by the same man with similar goals and drives.

Over the years, I continued to read Thoreau, mostly *Walden*. It was often my bedside reader, like Thoreau's *Iliad*. I read it, but didn't absorb it. Certainly I didn't live by it. I was still dancing to the drummer of Tiffanys, Mark Cross, BMW, and Neiman Marcus.

I never chose to live deliberately; I was forced to. The merry-go-round spun faster, the whirl-wind became a blur, the fast lane ran out of gas. I made several bad business decisions, and some key clients went out of business. My enterprise faltered, then collapsed. I was financially ruined. Then I went to prison.

Thoreau spent one night in his "hollow apartment"; I have already spent over 500. I wish I could ask my friends: "Why are you not here?" But that is as unrealistic as to think my periodic journal entries would one day be read by the descendants of Ghandi or Tolstoy.

Once settled in my steel-and-concrete 6x8-foot "inkstand," I requested the privilege of a single book, one that Walter Harding said in his *Variorum Walden* could be read for a variety of themes from travel to the good life. It was the one book I knew would be a good companion, no matter how many times I read it. I could find enjoyment in it, or it could be "a book to become

involved with, not in terms of escape, but in terms of reform, and particularly of reform of oneself."

When *Walden* arrived, I read it with a level of passion and interest I have never experienced. The more I read, the greater became my benefit and focus. Finally, it all made so much sense. And it was so straight-forward: "simplify, simplify, simplify." The seed planted almost 25 years before sprouted and began to take root. It was like Thoreau's strong and beautiful bug at last released from the old table of apple-tree wood.

Since the arrival of *Walden*, I continue to read and study Thoreau. And I hope to complete my master's degree. I have studied over 50 books by or about Thoreau. He and I are best friends. I have enhanced my understanding and have traveled many absorbing routes. Daily, I open Thoreau's *Journal* and disappear to saunter outside the walls in snow-filled woods, paddle around the pond in search of the loon, or watch and mourn the loss of another "noble tree that once waved in solitary majesty over the sproutland."

Ironically, my days are far too short. They are productive, profitable, and exhilarating. I'm very fortunate finally to understand and live like Thoreau.

"As long as possible live free and uncommitted. It makes little difference whether you are committed to a farm or the county jail." Few might understand how very profound those two sentences from *Walden* are. I'm grateful I do. My horizons are now broader and more promising than ever before. "Though the view from my door was more contracted, I did not feel crowded or confined in the least. There was pasture enough for my imagination."

As though to underscore my new life, my existence *here*, or my vocation, Thoreau said, "With a little more deliberation in the choice of their pursuits, all men would perhaps become essentially students and observers, for certainly their nature and destiny are interesting to all alike." And also, "My residence was more favorable, not only to thought, but to serious reading than a university." Here my mind has to compete with the cacophony of far too many radios and TVs, and enough voice pollution to subdue a dozen frat parties. But I succeed easily.

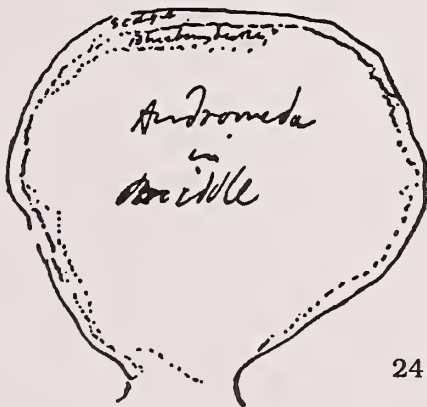
Periodically, I review why I was in such "desperate haste to succeed, and in such desperate enterprises." And I continue to put more distance between what is past and what will now continue to be. And I make more new discoveries with Thoreau.

Thoreau Society Sessions at the 1991 MLA Convention

Each year the Thoreau Society sponsors two sessions at the Modern Language Association's convention. This year's Society-sponsored MLA sessions will be held on Friday, 27 December, in the San Francisco Hilton Hotel's Continental Ballroom, Parlor 7. The sessions are open only to members of the MLA.

Joel Myerson will preside over the first session, which will be held from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. and is titled "Emerson's *Essays*: A Sesquicentennial Celebration." The following panelists will speak at the session: Alfred G. Litton, "The Virtue of the Senses': Emerson's Epistemology and the South in 'Prudence'"; Armida Gilbert, "'The Soul Is Light': Emerson's Anticipation of the New Physics"; Alan D. Hodder, "'Self-Reliance' and the Rhetoric of Conversation"; and Philip Gura as respondent.

Michael Meyer will preside over the second session, which will be held from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. and is titled "A Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of the Thoreau Society." The following panelists will speak at the session: Lawrence Buell, "Thoreau in the Society of Thoreauvians"; Richard J. Schneider, "An Overview of the Forthcoming *Approaches to Teaching Thoreau*"; and Michael West, "Recovering Thoreau's Humor for the Classroom."



24 November 1857

Lyceum Curator's Corner

Anne McGrath

The World Comes to Concord

Visitors to the Thoreau Lyceum are encouraged to write their names and countries of origin in the guest book. This is not done to form a list of potential Society members, but to add to the

colorful patchwork quilt fashioned by the different backgrounds of our visitors.

During this summer's Jubilee, we were particularly glad to welcome, among others, travelers from China, Japan, and Russia. Their presence reminded me of some unexpected events that have taken place at 156 Belknap Street.

Several years ago as I was preparing to close the Lyceum on a gray, rather unattractive November afternoon, a taxi stopped at the front door. Out of it stepped an elderly gentleman in a white robe with steel-rimmed spectacles on his nose and sandals on his feet. He introduced himself as a friend of Mahatma Gandhi who, he said, had always planned a pilgrimage to Concord, which this visitor was now making in Gandhi's honor.

On another fall day I went down to Walden to see how long it would take a visitor to walk briskly from the street to the site of Thoreau's house (the things a curator is asked!). When I started back, it was getting quite dark and not a soul was in sight. Suddenly, from the woods came the sound of a flute; someone was playing Debussy's *Afternoon of a Faun*. I never saw the player; I never knew his name; but in my mind I often thank him for that perfect moment.

The world does indeed come to Concord.

Notes & Queries

The Thoreau Jubilee brought forth a great deal of publicity, including articles in the following papers: *Boston Globe*, 7 and 20 July 1991; *Concord Journal*, 20 June and 25 July 1991; *New York Times*, 14 July 1991; *Scituate Mariner*, 4 July 1991; *Woonsocket [R.I.] Call*, 9 July 1991; [Worcester] *Catholic Free Press*, 19 July 1991; and *Worcester Telegram Gazette*, 3, 9, 11, and 24 July 1991.

There has been quite a furor at Walden Pond this summer because someone has been posting on the trees there official looking signs saying that nude bathing there was now permitted. Reservation officials denied the validity of the signs. Protest letters were written to the newspapers. The police announced that if they could find the offender, they would fine him or her a hundred dollars per sign posted. It reminds us of two facts: Henry Thoreau would be in trouble if he came back now, for he invariably swam there in the nude. And when, back in the 1930s, two college boys were brought up before Judge Prescott Keyes in the Concord court for

swimming nude in Walden Pond, he immediately dismissed the case, saying, "Damn it, that's the only way to swim in Walden Pond." (See *Concord Journal* for 25 July, 1 and 8 August 1991.)

The Houghton Library at Harvard University has on exhibit Ticknor & Fields' copy of the original contract for Thoreau's *Walden*; or, *Life in the Woods*—written in fine Spenserian penmanship. The contract is part of the library's holdings of the records of the Houghton, Mifflin Company and its predecessors.

Malcolm M. Ferguson owns seven postcards from the early 1900s, "Published by Gleason & Ordway." The cards show scenes of the region around Mt. Monadnock in New Hampshire and look as if from Herbert Gleason photographs. Another similar card is "Published by Geo. W. Gleason & Son." Many postcards were published by local merchants, often printed in Germany for sale in Dublin, Peterborough, and vicinity. Ferguson would appreciate hearing from anyone who may have additional information on these or similar postcards. His address is 1489 Main Street, Concord, MA 01742.

The American literary critic of the early 20th century Waldo David Frank was named by his parents for Emerson and Thoreau.

The Princeton Edition of *The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau* announced that Robert Hudspeth, professor of English at the College of the Redwoods, will edit Thoreau's correspondence.

Toni Welsh would like to know what Thoreau meant when he wrote, in the last paragraph of "Baker Farm" in *Walden*, about "Adam's grandmother and boggy ways." We suspect "Adam's grandmother" may have been a common saying of the time. Please send information or conjectures to your editor.

The Thoreau Society of Japan held its semi-annual meeting at Ginowan City, Okinawa, on 25 October. The Reverend Luke Hirotsugu Inoue, President of Eichi University in Amagasaki, was re-elected president of the Society; and Professor Yuji Nakata of Konan Women's University in Kobe was re-elected vice president. Speakers at the meeting included Ms. Hiromi Murakami on "Thoreau's Communion with Nature," Ms. Hisae Miwa on "Thoreau's Thirst," and Dan Bisgaard on "Thoreau and India: The Question of Influence on an Independent Mind."

According to an article in the *Concord Journal*, 31 October 1991, p. 13, "The federal government . . . appropriated \$1.5 million to the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge to purchase land along the Sudbury River." The refuge is currently comprised of 3,026 acres in

the towns of Concord, Carlisle, Lincoln, Wayland, Sudbury, Billerica, and Bedford.

The Walden Woods Project reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently received a \$350,000 appropriation, which it will use to purchase the development rights to a 25-acre parcel on Sudbury Road. The parcel lies entirely within Walden Woods and was the proposed site of a housing project to be called Concord Commons.

In late September, the Walden Woods Project sponsored three benefit concerts at Madison Square Garden in New York City featuring Don Henley, Billy Joel, Sting, Jimmy Buffett, and Bonnie Raitt. The concerts raised approximately \$1.8 million, according to Kathi Anderson, director of the project.

Along with several other organizations, the Thoreau Society co-sponsored a special reception in the Mansfield Room of the U.S. Capitol Building on 30 September, 5:30-7:30 p.m. to celebrate the publication of *Heaven Is Under Our Feet*. Some of the contributors to the book (Don Henley, Edmund A. Schofield, John McAleer, and Michael Kennedy) held book-signings at Boston-area shopping malls in late September; and several of the contributors turned out to celebrate the book's publication at a large reception in the New York Public Library's Celeste Bartos Forum on 17 October.

Information Associates, a subsidiary of Dun & Bradstreet Software, ran an advertisement in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* of 16 October 1991 that begins, "Let Thoreau step to the beat of a different drummer. He wanted to go it alone. You don't have to."

The cover story of *USA Today's* "Life" section on 4 October 1991 featured an article on the "Battle of Walden Woods," along with a color photograph of our president, Edmund A. Schofield, and a reproduction of the Rowse drawing of Thoreau.

The Thoreau Society, Inc. is an informal gathering of students and admirers of Henry David Thoreau. Edmund A. Schofield, president; Eric Parkman Smith, treasurer; Bradley P. Dean, secretary. Dues: \$20; students \$10; family \$35; benefactor \$100; life \$500. Address communications to the secretary at Route 2, Box 36, Ayden, NC 28513; send dues to the Thoreau Society, Inc., 156 Belknap Street, Concord, MA 01742.